



No Going Back by Wendell Berry

*No, no, there is no going back.
Less and less you are
that possibility you were.*

*More and more you have become
those lives and deaths
that have belonged to you.*

*You have become a sort of grave
containing much that was
and is no more in time, beloved
then, now, and always.*

*And so you have become a sort of
tree standing over the grave.*

*Now more than ever you can be
generous toward each day
that comes, young, to disappear
forever, and yet remain
unaging in the mind.*

*Every day you have less reason
not to give yourself away.*